

# No. 74.

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MARCH 7, 1808.

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Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house, on Thursday next.

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## A Bill,

Supplemental to "An act regulating the grants of land in the territory of Michigan.

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1    Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That every*  
3 person claiming lands within that part of the Michigan territory, to  
4 which the Indian title has been extinguished, by virtue of any legal  
5 grant made by the French government prior to the treaty of Paris,  
6 of the tenth of February, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-  
7 three ; or of any legal grant made by the British government sub-  
8 sequent to the said treaty, and prior to the treaty of peace between  
9 the United States and Great Britain, of the third of September,  
10 one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, or of the second

11 section of the act to which this act is a supplement, shall be allow-  
 12 ed until the first day of \_\_\_\_\_ next, to deliver to the  
 13 register of the land office for the district of Detroit, a notice in  
 14 writing, stating the nature and extent of his claims, together with  
 15 a plat or plats of the tract or tracts claimed. And if such person  
 16 shall fail to deliver such notice in writing, together with a plat of  
 17 the tract claimed, all his right, so far as it may be derived from any  
 18 act of congress, shall become void. And the commissioners appoint-  
 19 ed for the purpose of ascertaining and deciding the rights of per-  
 20 sons claiming lands in the said district of Detroit, shall have the  
 21 same powers and perform the same duties, in relation to the claims,  
 22 notices of which shall be thus filed, as are provided by the act to  
 23 which this act is a supplement, in relation to the claims therein  
 24 described.

1   Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That every person whose claim  
 2 has been or shall be confirmed by the commissioners aforesaid, to  
 3 a tract of land bordering on the river Detroit, and not exceeding in  
 4 depth forty arpens, French measure, shall be entitled to a prefer-  
 5 ence in becoming the purchaser of any vacant tract of land adjacent  
 6 to and back of his own tract, not exceeding forty arpens, French  
 7 measure, in depth, nor in quantity of land that which is contained  
 8 in his own tract, at the same price and on the same terms and condi-  
 9 tions as are provided by law for the other public lands in the said  
 10 district. And the surveyor of the public lands north west of the  
 11 river Ohio, shall be, and he is hereby authorized, as soon as may

12 be after the first day of                      next, to cause to be survey-  
13 ed, the tracts claimed by virtue of this section, and in all cases  
14 where, by reason of bends in the said river, and of adjacent prior or  
15 pre-emption claims, each claimant cannot obtain a tract equal in  
16 quantity to the adjacent tract already owned by him, to divide the  
17 vacant land, applicable to that object, between the several claimants,  
18 in such manner as to him will appear most equitable. And every  
19 person entitled to the benefit of this section, shall, on or before the  
20 first day of                      next, deliver to the register of the land  
21 office for the district of Detroit, a notice in writing, stating the situ-  
22 ation and extent of the tract of land he wishes to purchase, and  
23 deposit at the same time one twentieth part of the purchase money ;  
24 and shall also, within three months after the return of the survey  
25 to the office of the said register, produce to him a receipt from the  
26 receiver of public money for the said district, for one fourth part of  
27 the purchase money. And if any such person shall fail to deliver  
28 such notice, and make such deposit and payment, at the times above  
29 mentioned, his right of pre-emption shall cease, and become void.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That every person, who, being  
the head of a family, did, prior to the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
and doth, at the time of the passage of this act, inhabit and cultivate  
a tract of land in the territory of Michigan, not claimed by virtue  
of a legal French or British grant, or by the second section of the  
act to which this act is a supplement, shall be entitled to a prefer-  
ence in becoming the purchaser from the United States, of such tract

8 of land not exceeding one section, at the price at which the other  
 9 public lands in the said territory are directed to be sold ; and pay-  
 10 ment may be made therefor in the same manner, and under the same  
 11 conditions, as are provided by law for such other public lands.  
 12 And every person entitled to the benefit of this section, shall, on or  
 13 before the first day of                      next, deliver to the register of the  
 14 land office for the district aforesaid, a notice in writing, of the situa-  
 15 tion and extent of the tract of land he wishes to purchase. The  
 16 commissioners aforesaid, are hereby authorized to examine and de-  
 17 cide the claims of every person claiming the benefit of this section ;  
 18 and whenever it shall appear to them that the claimant is entitled to  
 19 a right of pre-emption, they shall give a certificate thereof, directed  
 20 to the register of the land office, which certificate, together with a  
 21 receipt from the receiver of public money, of at least one fourth  
 22 part of the purchase money, shall, on or before the first day of Jan-  
 23 uary next, be produced by the claimant, to the register of the land  
 24 office for the said district. And if any person shall fail to deliver  
 25 such notice in writing, or produce such certificate and receipt, with-  
 26 in the times above mentioned, his right of pre-emption shall cease  
 27 and become void.

1    *Sec. 4. And be it further enacted,* That so much of the second  
 2 section of the act to which this act is a supplement, as provides  
 3 that not more than one tract or parcel of land shall be granted to  
 4 any one person, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

1     Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the lands to which the  
2 Indian title has been extinguished, by the treaty made at Detroit,  
3 on the seventeenth of November, one thousand eight hundred and  
4 seven, shall be attached to and made a part of the district of Detroit,  
5 and be offered for sale at that place under the same exceptions and  
6 regulations, at the same price, and on the same terms, as other lands  
7 lying in that district.

**Sec. 6.** *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be designated,  
under the direction of the secretary of the treasury, two tracts of  
land, each containing not more than                      sections, and  
including, one, the village called Brown's town, and the other, the  
village called Maguaga, in the possession of the Wyandotte tribe of  
Indians ; which said two tracts of land shall be reserved for the use  
of the said tribe of Indians, and their descendants, so long as they  
continue to reside thereon, and cultivate the same.